

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1.914
P3P58

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of Information

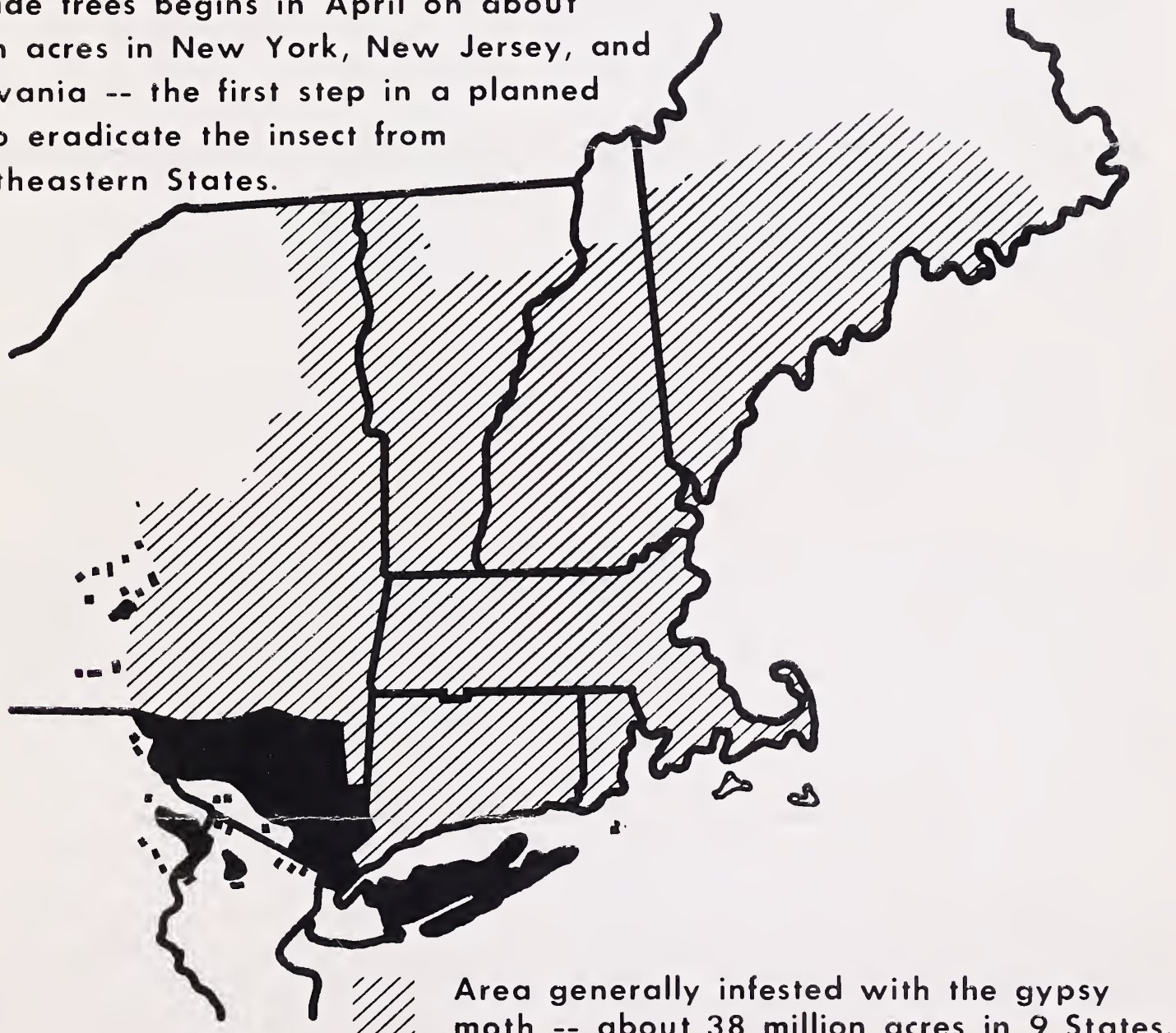


cop. 2
#103 Picture Story No. 103

April, 1957

ATTACK ON THE GYPSY MOTH

Aerial spraying against this pest of forest and shade trees begins in April on about 3 million acres in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania -- the first step in a planned effort to eradicate the insect from the Northeastern States.



Area generally infested with the gypsy moth -- about 38 million acres in 9 States.

Spot infestations and generally infested areas to be sprayed under Federal and State contracts in 1957 -- 2,950,000 acres in 3 States.



M-127--Leaf-eating caterpillars of the gypsy moth damage hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of forest and shade trees in the Northeastern states every year. As soon as the weather turns warm, about the middle of April, the caterpillars hatch out from eggs laid by moths the previous year.



M-412--Gypsy moth caterpillars change into pupae, the resting stage, by late June or July. Ten to 14 days later adult moths emerge. The female moth lays her eggs on tree trunks, as shown here, under leaves or rocks, or in other protected places.



BN-4078--The heavy-bodied female moth (right) is white with black markings. She crawls to a shady spot, lays her eggs, and dies. She cannot fly. The male moth (left) has dark-brown forewings and is a strong flier. The wind may spread the insect in all stages to start new infestations.



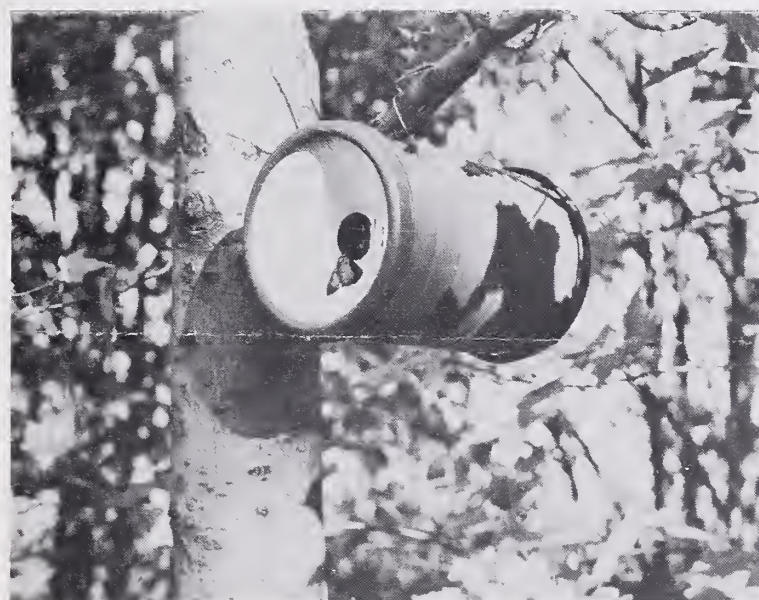
M-1842--Trees on the right side of the road have been stripped of their foliage and killed by the gypsy moth. Trees on the left were protected by DDT spray. Loss of trees increases erosion and fire hazard, discourages wildlife. Dead and dying trees attacked by the gypsy moth are unsightly and detract from scenic and recreational value of forests and parks.



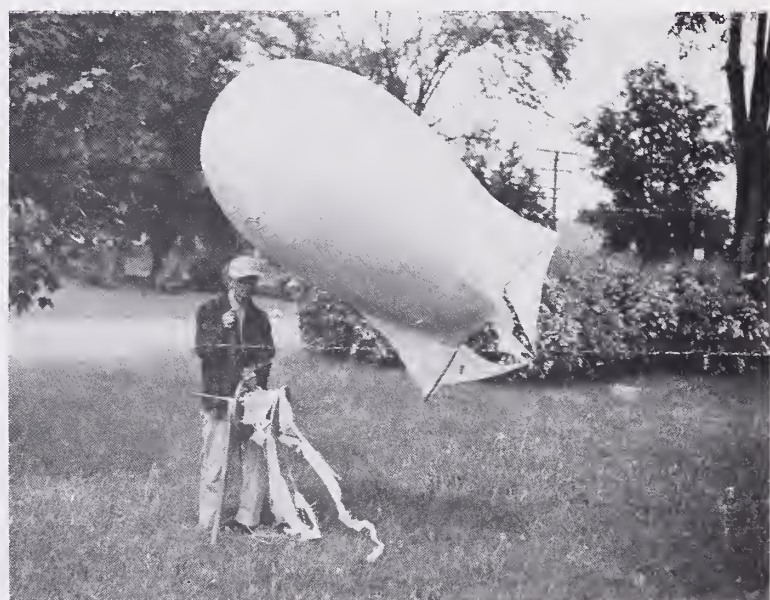
M-3175--White oaks in this wooded area were killed as a result of complete defoliation by the gypsy moth during the previous year. The insect attacks a variety of trees including oak, poplar, apple, pear, linden, birch, elm, and maple. It will also feed on and kill hemlock and spruce, when infestation is heavy.



FS-348806--Scouts survey areas where male gypsy moths were captured following the trapping season. They look for egg masses to trace infestations from which trapped moths originated and to determine extent and concentration of infestation. Trapping and scouting surveys provide information on which the aerial spraying program is planned for the following spring.



BN-2360--Traps baited with a substance that attracts male gypsy moths are used by survey crews to locate new infestations and check on effectiveness of aerial spraying. Over 7 million acres in and around infested areas were trap-surveyed during the summer of 1956. Traps help to locate small areas invaded by the gypsy moth that would otherwise go undetected.



M-240--Blimp-shaped balloon, 3 feet wide and 8 feet long, is raised to mark boundaries of areas to be sprayed, when other landmarks are not available. Smoke signals from Very pistols are another device used to guide pilots of spray planes.



*BN-4083--Planes are being loaded here with DDT insecticide in oil solution from large tanks seen in the background. Planes and pilots are subject to Civil Aeronautics regulations. Before each take off pilots and copilots are carefully briefed on areas to be sprayed and pattern to be followed. Spraying is done in early morning hours when air is still.



*BN-4082--Multi-engined planes disperse a spray of DDT-oil solution over areas infested by the tree-attacking gypsy moth. The insecticide remains effective for at least 3 weeks. Applied at the rate of 1 pound of DDT in one gallon of oil per acre, it is harmless to humans and does no damage to wildlife.

*Photos courtesy of N. J. Dept. of Agriculture.

Magazines and newspapers may obtain glossy prints of any of these photographs from the Photography Division, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. Others may purchase prints, at 75¢ each, from the same address.